

The Labor Advocate
 A PAPER FOR ALL WHO TOIL
 Official Organ of The Building Trades Council of Cincinnati and Vicinity
 ISSUED WEEKLY

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Communications should be on hand not later than Wednesday to insure publication.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

Entered at the postoffice at Cincinnati O., as second-class mail matter.



CINCINNATI, OHIO, DECEMBER 25, 1915.

REMEMBER

The friendly business firms who are patronizing the Labor Advocate and endeavoring to show their good will and sincerity through the columns of this paper, the official journal, deserve the patronage of loyal members of organized labor, and will be remembered by them on every shopping trip.

WILLIS AND THE JEWS.

The interest which Governor Willis claims to take in the welfare of the suffering Jews of the war zone, appears to be rather impersonal and directed at others rather than in his own direction. The Governor wants other people to support the different funds in behalf of these Jews, but when called upon by a well-known Jewish paper and asked to subscribe to the same charity, "His Fraudulency" stated that he, being a poor man, was not able to do so. The Governor would prefer to subscribe his endorsement in hot air and permit the common every-day worker to supply the cash.

NICK VS. ANDY.

In the event that Hon. Nicholas Longworth should run short of funds with which to defer the expense of the Civil Service Commission in its investigation of Colonel Andy Gilligan, he will find plenty of Democrats in this city who will be glad to contribute to such a cause in the hope of themselves landing the plum.

WHAT DOES HESS THINK?

Jim Faulkner, of the Enquirer, tells us the Republican party of Ohio is the real owner of the prohibition propaganda and that the question of another dry campaign will not be decided until whether or not the G. O. P. will require the services of the dries next year. Wonder what Colonel Willie Hess, Secretary of the Brewers' Board of Trade and prominent Republican leader, thinks of this.

STICK TO THAT, WALTER.

Mr. Walter J. Friedlander, next Director of the Safety Department, called on Director Holmes during the week, and stated to representatives of the press after the call that he saw no occasion for changes in the department. If Mr. Friedlander will adhere to this until he has had time to learn how the department is run under Mr. Holmes, there will be no occasion for changes, and Chiefs Coplean and Bunker, two most efficient officers, will remain in their present positions.

THE SUPREME COURT AND THE THIEVING SQUIRES.

The people of Hamilton County, especially those who buy pianos and furniture on the installment plan, will be gratified to know that the Supreme Court of Ohio has knocked out the notorious "squire system" under which the people of the cities of the State have suffered during past years and through which the unfortunate, who was unable to meet payments promptly, through sickness or non-employment, have been carted to some backwoods district and given a hearing by some shark whose only knowledge of the law consisted of knowing how to impose outrageous costs. Others will be relieved also, since these sharks have preyed upon all classes without mercy or discrimination.

Upon being elected to the office of justice of the peace in a rural district it has been the custom of these "squires" to immediately establish an office in the down-town district, surround themselves with a gang of shysters and grafters, giving to these the title of bailiff; after which the work of preying upon the unfortunate proceeded, the "squire" holding court in a hotel lobby, saloon or other convenient place when his bailiff made an arrest, the fine and costs being exactly equal to the sum total of the cash and valuables found upon the person of the victim.

Under the ruling of the Supreme Court these grafters will be allowed to practice in their own districts only, and since few of them were able to make an honest living before they became "squires," they will now be given the choice of getting down to honest work or stealing from those who elected them, which would result in them being yanked up before the bar of justice and made to feel the disgrace and humiliation, to say nothing of the financial loss, which they have so often inflicted upon the unfortunates of the city districts.

WHY MERCHANTS SHOULD FAVOR UNIONS.

When a workingman gets a dollar he cannot possibly be a two-dollar customer at the grocery, the dry goods store, the shoe store or any other place of business. High wages help the merchant every time. Trade unions tend to raise wages and therefore make the mechanic and laborer a better customer. Labor unions also have a tendency to materially shorten the hours of labor, thereby giving employment to a larger number of operatives. The man of business who fails to realize the truth of these assertions is behind the times and should read up. Long hours and small wages are among the causes of panics and hard times. The trade union is unalterably opposed to both these evils.

The merchant who expects to do a good business on a starvation rate of wages is on a par with the farmer who would expect a good crop without planting any seed. Intelligent storekeepers are beginning to realize that the question of their prosperity is in a large measure bound in the welfare of the wage-earning class. Whatever will advance the welfare of the one will just as certainly advance the welfare of the other also.

Merchants and business men who are antagonistic to the trade union movement are antagonistic to their own best interests. There is no theory or sentiment about this; it is straight out and out matter of fact. Just think it out; you who are interested.

Don't forget that in localities where labor is well organized wages are always higher than in those places where it is poorly organized.

Which class would you prefer to do business with?

The trade union and good wages go hand in hand.

Candidly, now, it doesn't need a sledgehammer to drive this home, does it?—Oklahoma Labor Unit.

FEDERAL CONVICT LABOR.

Washington.—Nearly 2,000 federal prisoners will be idle at the Leavenworth and Atlanta penitentiaries unless some plan of employment for them is devised, says Attorney General Gregory in his annual report. It is necessary, he declares, that legislation be passed to meet this condition and he promises to send information to congress relating to the manufacture of supplies for the government.

"I shall also urge as part of the plan," said the attorney general, "the payment monthly to the families of prisoners of a portion of the amount earned by prisoners on labor, and in case of single men the retention of some portion of these earnings to be paid over to them after their release from confinement."

The attorney general said that a furniture factory is in consideration for the Leavenworth penitentiary where ultimately all furniture needed by the federal government may be made. A textile mill and twine plant at Atlanta for making mail bags, blankets and cotton duck for tents is being completed.

RAILROAD SIGNS AGREEMENT.

New York.—The New York, Ontario & Western railway has signed a federated agreement with its mechanics and helpers. Pay for overtime and rates for apprentices is agreed to, as are methods for adjusting disputes. No employee can be discharged without just cause, and if it is found, after investigation, that a worker has been dismissed without sufficient reason he shall be reinstated with full pay for all time lost.

EVILS OF BONUS SYSTEM.

Boston.—At the state convention of the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers it was reported that engineers employed by the Boston elevated have worked 48 hours on a stretch in an effort to take advantage of the bonus system.

ACCEPT COMPENSATION LAW.

Philadelphia.—Railroads in this State have agreed to accept the compensation law, which takes effect the first of the year. At a meeting of railroad representatives it was stated that the companies would adopt their own insurance systems.

TO WORK OUT WELFARE PLAN.

Denver.—President Welborn of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company has appointed an advisory committee to assist him in carrying out the Rockefeller welfare plan. The committee consists of company officials.

INCREASES FOR SHOP MEN.

Danville.—The Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroad shop men have received wage increases of 1 cent an hour. Workers affected are machinists, blacksmiths, boiler-makers, sheet metal workers and assistants.

INCREASES FOR BLACKSMITHS.

Chicago.—Blacksmiths employed by the Morgan Gardner Machinery Company now receive 45 cents an hour, and helpers, 34 cents. These rates are increases of a fraction less than 2 cents an hour.

WANT UNION CONDITIONS.

San Francisco.—Hoisting Engineers' Union requests the central body to urge city authorities to establish union wages and working conditions in building the Hetch-Hetchy water system.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Knoxville, Tenn.—Newspaper publishers have signed a six years' contract with the Typographical Union. The first three years' wages for hand men will be increased 90 cents a week, and the last three years, \$1.50. Rates for machine composition will be also increased.

A Distinction.

"One suburban neighbor who is a lawyer told me yesterday with pride that he is quite an expert at white-washing."
 "What's his specialty—fences or characters?"—Exchange.

BUILDING SUB-CONTRACTS

Factory Building—A 6-story reinforced concrete addition to be built to factory at Spring Grove ave. and Straight st. Owner, the Huenefeld Co.; architects, Stegner & Hughes, Commercial Tribune Bldg., Cincinnati, O. The following additional contracts have been awarded: Brick work, the David Hummel Building Co.; iron work, the Grimm Iron Works Co.; electric work, the Devere Electric Co.; piles, to the Crawford Construction Co.

School—Additional building for public school at Batavia, O. Owner, the Board of Education; architects, Robertson & Fainstock, Gerke Bldg., Cincinnati, O. Contracts awarded as follows: General contract, A. P. Eveland, of Miami, O.; plumbing, the John Arpp Co., of Middletown, O., and the electric wiring to the Beerman Electric Co., of Covington, Ky. The contract for heating has not been awarded but will be soon.

School—Gymnasium, stadium, industrial arts building, power plant and two tunnels for the new East Side High School, on Madison road, opposite Erie avenue. Owner, the Board of Education; architects, Garber & Woodward, Union Central Building, Cincinnati, O. Bids opened on Monday, December 20. From a preliminary computation of the bids, the Roche-Bruiner Building Co. appears to be the low bidder, the bid being \$390,700 for a lump job. Other lump bids run over \$400,000.

Residence—A 2½-story stucco residence, to be built on Harrison avenue, in Westwood. Owner, W. S. P. Os-kamp; architect, G. C. Burroughs, Union Trust Bldg., Cincinnati, O. Contract for masonry awarded to Peter Lothes.

STEAM FITTERS' HELPERS ELECT

At the annual election of officers of Steam-fitters' Helpers Local Union 392, which was held at the headquarters hall Friday evening, December 17, the following officers were chosen for the ensuing year: President, T. Colina; vice-president, J. Chuck; financial secretary, A. R. McNamara; recording secretary, R. H. Rice; treasurer, Phil Volz; inside sentry, George Elsenhofer; inspector, M. Toohy; business agent, Phil Fischer. The following were elected members of the executive board: George Foegle, Joe Chuck, J. Howard. The finance committee is made up of the following: Fred Boothby, George Foegle and J. Howard.

IMMEDIATE ACTION.

May Be Taken By Wilson on Appeals For Labor Men.

Washington.—President Wilson, last Thursday, asked for the papers in the so-called conspiracy case and they were immediately forwarded to him.

The request is taken to mean that he intends to give immediate consideration to the appeal recently made for clemency for several of the convicted men.

The American Federation of Labor and the machinists' organization some weeks ago petitioned the President to commute the sentences of Frank M. Ryan, E. G. Clancy, John T. Butler, F. C. Webb, M. J. Young, Paul B. Morris, Philip Cooley, B. G. Munsey, P. J. Smith, Charles M. Deum, William E. Reddin, Edwin Smythe, George Anderson and E. W. Basy.

INJURED RECEIVE \$310,898.

Sacramento, Cal.—The State Industrial Accident Commission reports that during the past fiscal year there were paid to workmen and their families on account of accidents \$310,898. The total number of accidents was 60,737. The commission states that employers are becoming advocates of compensation as they understand the workings of this principle. These employers are not only found in industrial fields, but include farm, dairy and horticultural work.

TO ENLARGE NAVY YARDS.

Washington.—Secretary of the Navy Daniels has recommended to Congress that five United States navy yards be equipped to build battleships of the largest type. These are the Norfolk, Puget Sound, Mare Island, Philadelphia, and New York yards.

This would double the battleship producing capacity of the country, as there are now only five private yards which can handle such an order.

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She Knows.

When you stammer out to a woman that you are as naught but a poor groveling earthworm compared to a heavenly star like her you are only telling her what she knew all the time. —Florida Times-Union.